

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please insert the following substitute paragraph for the paragraph on page 8, line 3-21.

The two rods 50 and 60 are interchangeable in the preferred embodiment of this invention. In the preferred embodiment the rods can be fabricated from galvanized steel so that these two load bearing members will provide adequate strength and load carrying capability. For instance steel rods capable of bearing a stress of approximately 700 pounds can be employed. In the representative embodiment depicted herein, the rods can have a length of twenty-one and  $\frac{1}{2}$  (21-1/2) inches. Each rod 50 and 60 can include a through hole adjacent one end through which a pull ring 68 can be inserted. The opposite end of each rod will include a locking or swivel clip means, such as locking clip means 52 shown in Figures 7 and 8. Locking clip means 52 includes a rotatable locking bar 54 that can fit within a locking channel 54 extending inwardly from one end of the rod 50. The locking bar 54 can have an inner inclined surface, which abuts an inner inclined shoulder in the locking channel 56, so that the locking bar 54 can rotate in only one direction about a central mounting pin. The swiveling locking bar 54 can be rotated into the perpendicular position shown in Figure 8 so that the rod 50 cannot be inadvertently removed after being inserted through the ladder rungs 6. When the locking bar 54 is in the recessed position shown in Figure 7, the rod 50 can be inserted through the hollow rungs 6 on conventional metal or fiberglass ladders 2 as illustrated in Figure 6. The other identical rod 60 includes identical locking clip means 62 comprising rotatable locking bar in a locking channel.